

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully considered the Office action dated December 23, 2008. By way of this response, claim 22, 24, 25, and 38-41 have been amended and claim 21 has been cancelled without prejudice to its further prosecution. In view of the following remarks, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

As an initial matter, the applicants maintain their traversal of the restriction requirement set forth in the Office action dated February 5, 2008. Also, the applicants wish to clarify an aspect of the Office action dated December 23, 2008. In particular, the Office Action Summary lists claim 40 as being objected to. However, the Detailed Action section of the Office action lists claim 40 as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The Detailed Action section of the Office action lists claim 24 as allowable if rewritten in independent form. For purposes of this response, the applicants assume that the Detailed Action section is accurate and that claim 40 was rejected under §103(a) and that claim 24 is objected to. That is, the applicants assume that the Office Action Summary should have listed claim 24 as an objected to claim instead of claim 40.

The Office action identifies claim 24 as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Based on this indication, claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form. Additionally, claims 22, 25, and 38-41 have been amended to depend from claim 24.

Accordingly, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that a telephone conference would facilitate the allowance of this application, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at the number below.

U.S. Serial No. 10/717,102

Response to the Office action dated December 23, 2008

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed (if any) or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 50-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

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